

Carolina Country

December 1986®

Tracing The Origins
Of America's Favorite
Christmas Customs
See Page 8

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Handicapped Parking: No Luxury For Disabled

The handicapped parking place was designed to help those who have wheelchairs, crutches or walkers by giving them the extra room they need for getting in and out of their vehicles.

These parking places aren't a luxury to the disabled, but a necessity.

For anyone to use them other than the disabled is a slap in the face to the handicapped, which we should all care about. I'm sure the same people who are parking in the handicapped parking places would care if their cars were towed away. They would then be the ones crying bloody murder.

To me, the heart of the situation is that if a merchant wants the business of the handicapped consumer, then the merchant will work to keep those without a placard from parking in a handicapped parking place.

On the other side of the coin, it is the duty of all of us to report it to the manager of that particular business and let him handle it. If the situation continues without the management doing anything, then just stop shopping there.

Of all the problems a handicapped person has, having the physically able park in their parking places has to be one of the most bothersome. Physically able people have no business parking in places that are reserved for the handicapped, yet they do it everyday with total disregard to the disabled person.

Their reasons for this range from, "It was the first parking place I came to" to "I was only going to be in the store a minute." To me, there is no excuse for it.

To legally park in a handicapped parking place in North Carolina, one has to have a placard issued by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles upon proving that the person is handicapped. The result of illegally parking in a handicapped parking place is supposed to be the towing away of the vehicles that are illegally parked, but this hardly ever happens.

Roger Dowdy

Dowdy is a handicapped resident of Guilford County. His comments originally appeared in the Greensboro News-Record.



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Peace On Earth: "Let It Begin With Me"

This editorial was written by Gene Clifford, manager of cooperative education for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"Peace on earth" may have come to mean the wrong thing.

It is broadly perceived today that peace is nothing more than the absence of war. If our world accepts that, we may be settling for the crumbs instead of the whole loaf. This avoids the real substance of the truth. It may actually slow our search for the genuine article.

Ugly and violent though they are, wars are only the occasional outbursts that emphasize our failure to discover day-in, day-out peace. Perhaps their angry lesson is that real peace will never exist anywhere unless it is grounded on the "love thy neighbor" thinking of people who have no taste for conflict of any sort, who are at peace with themselves and with their neighbors.

People who respect each other's dignity, who display concern for each other's well-being, are not people who are ready to unload exploding metal and nuclear devastation on each other.

Only a few years ago, much of the world was singing, "Let there be

peace on earth, and let it begin with me." The inspiring verses are neither so loud nor so common today, but they did demonstrate once that many people knew in their hearts the only starting place for peace.

The serenity of a peace both universal and lasting cannot blossom from that recognition alone. Nothing will happen—nothing *has* happened in the history of the world—to erase the repeated tensions of confrontation, until we determine to *do* something about that need we recognize.

Tranquility will not be fashioned by governments and then slipped down over the world in a tailored fit. As the song emphasizes, it must "begin with me," with all of us. Then we may see it spread outward and upward in a veritable epidemic of peace until the entire world is infected with this greatest of all blessings.

This time will not come as a thundering wave. It may be a single ripple, than another and another. And these will be multiplied at last by countless ripples in countless places. World peace could be borne on such a tide.

Surely, there are ways to begin the "do unto others" process that

puts people in each other's arms rather than at each other's throats. These are the better ways that can urge all of us far beyond the talk of peace and the hope of peace and resolutely into the practice of peace.

One of the best of these is the cooperative way, the march together toward mutual benefit that links people arm-in-arm instead of eyeball-to-eyeball.

Those who cooperate do not move alone, plotting ways to obtain advantage over each other. They join forces instead, pooling their individual strengths in search of special benefits that will belong to all.

That move toward the common good, toward sharing fairly and evenly, wipes out much of the rivalry, cancels some of the pushing and shoving. It is one start toward peace—a modest thing, perhaps, but still a beginning toward the first necessary thing, peace of mind and peace of soul.

That may be what Shakespeare had in mind when he wrote of "a peace above all earthly dignities, a still and quiet conscience."

Peace on earth? It's close at hand always, ready right now to heal and to soothe, if we will let it.

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James M. Hubbard/Executive Vice President

Owen Bishop/Editor

Dan Cook/Associate Editor

Monica Russell/Editorial-Advertising Assistant

Cheryle Mangum/Typesetter-Graphics Assistant

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At N. C. State Fair

Livestock Hall Of Fame Inducts Four

Four individuals were recognized for outstanding service to livestock programs during the North Carolina State Fair.

They were inducted into the North Carolina State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame.

Those inducted were Norman A. Jordan of Siler City, Maxine Cartwright of Watha, J. R. (Bob) Jones and J. W. (Pete) Patterson, both of Raleigh.

Jordan, a dairy farmer, has served on the N.C. State Fair Advisory Board and the N.C. Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (NCPDCA) State Fair Rules Committee. He helped start the N.C. Brown Swiss Cattle Association and was instrumental in the Brown Swiss breed becoming a member of the NCPDCA.

Mrs. Cartwright, an Appaloosa breeder and owner, is active in many Appaloosa associations and has worked with the fair and community groups. She organized the first Appaloosa clubs in North Carolina, is a director of the Greater Eastern Appaloosa Regional and is a charter member and director of the N.C. Horse Council.

She began the first 4-H Horse Club and worked with the Lake Waccamaw Lions Club on the annual horse show at the Boy's Club Arena. She has served on the N.C. State Fair Advisory Committee since its inception.

Jones is in charge of Extension Swine Husbandry at N.C. State University. He has worked many years to develop, promote and improve State Fair swine programs and the swine industry.

He has been superintendent of the State Fair Swine Department for the past 20 years. Largely through his efforts, fair swine shows are nationally recognized. He initiated the N.C. All Breeds Show and Sale, served as chairman of the N.C. Market Hog Show and started boar performance testing.

Patterson nurtured development of the N.C. State Fair Beef Cattle Shows, which have expanded from three to eight breeds. He served as show superintendent for 13 years, and on

the State Fair Livestock Advisory Committee for eight years.

Patterson retired from N.C. State University in 1984 as specialist in charge of extension animal husbandry.

Farmers From Mt. Olive, Clyde Get Fair Honors

Hilda Tutor Alphin of Mount Olive and Donald Ross Smart of Clyde were honored as the Young Female and Young Male Farmers of the Year during the recent North Carolina State Fair.

The Young Female and Young Male Farmer of the Year Awards recognize young farmers' excellence in management and production and their involvement in industry, civic and community activities.

The awards are sponsored by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation.

Mrs. Alphin and her husband, Lewis, have a row crop and livestock operation. They grow corn, soybeans, tobacco, wheat and hay. They raise turkeys and hogs under contract, in addition to a beef cattle operation.

She serves on the Southern States Advisory Committee, teaches Sunday School at Bethel United Methodist Church, is secretary-treasurer of Oak Wolfe Fire Department and does volunteer work at North Duplin Elementary School.

Smart raises tobacco, tomatoes, silage corn and hay. He has beef cattle and buys steer in the fall to winter over with corn silage and hay produced on the farm.

He is active in farm and community organizations, having served as a county and state committee chairman for the N.C. Farm Bureau. He is a member of the Mountain Research Station Advisory Committee and is chairman of the Haywood County Vocational Agriculture Advisory Committee.

He has been recognized as an outstanding young farmer by the Soil and Water Conservation Service, Haywood Chamber of Commerce and Jaycees.

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15 EMC Directors Are Re-elected

A total of 14 incumbents have been re-elected to the Boards of Directors of four North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations during recent co-op annual meetings:

Tideland EMC, Pantego—Re-elected were Vernon Canady of Pantego; Kenneth E. Gray of Rt. 1, Scranton; Carroll Austin of Rt. 2, Aurora and Arthur Ford of New Bern.

Pitt and Green EMC, Farmville—Re-elected were J. J. Grimsley of Rt. 1, Ayden; Mark Mazingo of Rt. 2, Farmville and Joe Edwards Jr. of Rt. 1, Hookerton.

Tri-County EMC, Dudley—Re-

elected were Leslie J. Bell of Rt. 2, Mt. Olive, Frank B. Jordan of Rt. 3, Mt. Olive and W. L. Scott Jr. of Rt. 6, Goldsboro.

Rutherford EMC, Forest City—Re-elected were Fred D. Mintz Sr. of Rt. 1, Lawndale; Joseph N. Quinn of Rt. 3, Marion; H. Frank Queen of Rt. 1, Morganton; W. L. Plonk of Rt. 3, Kings Mountain and Robert O. Bynum of Rt. 2, Iron Station.

State Agency Offers Video Documentaries

Video documentaries produced by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources are available to the public for screening.

The documentaries focus on topics


of significant cultural and historical interest in the state of North Carolina.

VHS half-inch copies can either be purchased for the cost of duplication from Cultural Resources, or they can be checked out through the special services section of the State Library.

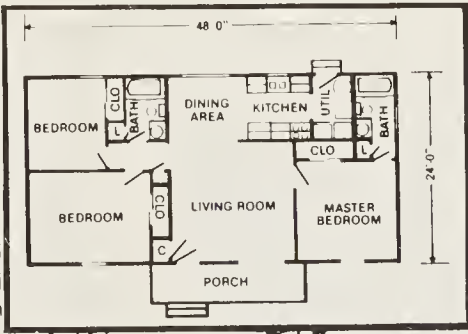
All of the titles are suitable for North Carolina studies, as well as other group uses such as business or the arts.


For a list of titles available and their duplication costs, write or call the Public Information Office, Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27609. Phone: (919) 733-5722.

Continued on page 6



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State Agencies Get New Names

The names of two state-supported educational agencies have been changed.

The North Carolina State Museum of Natural History has become the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina Marine Resources Centers, with facilities at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores and Fort Fisher, are now known as the North Carolina Aquariums.

Both changes took effect in September.

Dr. John B. Funderburg, director of the Museum of Natural Sciences, explained that dropping the word "history" from the name will help reduce confusion with the N.C.

Museum of History, which is also in the state government building complex in Raleigh.

He said the new name also more accurately describes the services the museum provides to the people of North Carolina.

Last year, the name of the Hampton Mariner's Museum in Beaufort was changed to the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

It is operated by the N.C. Department of Agriculture, as is the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

Public TV Network Opens 10th Station

Television viewers from central northeastern North Carolina are now able to watch their favorite public television programs on a new channel,

WUNP-TV Channel 36, the tenth station in The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television network.

WUNP-TV officially went on the air in October.

Licensed to Roanoke Rapids, the new station is located two miles north of Brinkleyville and serves as the Center's primary signal source for the following counties: Bertie, Edgecombe, Halifax, Hertford, Nash, Northampton, Vance, Warren and Wilson, as well as four Virginia counties.

13 Extension Agents Get 'Excellence' Awards

Thirteen county extension workers from across North Carolina have been honored for the effectiveness of their educational programs.

Receiving RJR Nabisco Extension Agent Awards of Excellence were four county extension chairmen, four 4-H agents, two home economics agents, two agricultural agents and one area agent.

Recipients were each presented a plaque and \$3,000. This is the second year of the awards program, which was made possible by a grant from RJR Nabisco, Inc., to the Agricultural Foundation at NCSU.

Dr. Chester D. Black, state director of the Agricultural Extension Service, called the award recipients "effective change agents." He said they utilize the university knowledge base and their competence as educators to solve community problems and develop outstanding educational programs.

County extension chairmen honored were Zackie Harrell, Gates County; Johnnie Jones III, Lenoir County; Wanda Sykes, Halifax County; and Frances Voliva, Tyrrell County.

Extension 4-H agents recognized were Eddie Locklear, Robeson County; Robert Lopp, Davidson County; Howard Scott, Wayne County and Martha Warner, Bladen County.



Trainees Tour Statewide EMC Organization Headquarters

Orrie Baffi, manager of finance for North Carolina's statewide organization of Electric Membership Corporations, explains some of the organization's operations to two foreign visitors who are trainees in a cooperative education program at the University of Wisconsin. They are Roberm Meki of Kasama, Zambia, center and John Justin Onoria of Mbale, Uganda. The two visitors, who are both officials of cooperatives in their home countries, toured various credit union and cooperative businesses, including Central EMC, Sanford, during a one-week visit to North Carolina. They were hosted by the EMC Employees Credit Union, which is headquartered in Raleigh.

Katherine Hester, Davidson County and Evelyn Spangler, Pitt County, were the home economics agents honored. Agricultural agents selected were Michael Ferguson, Macon County and Dr. Tom Johnson, Chatham County.

Also recognized was Freida Terrell, who is an area crafts agent stationed in Asheville.

Seat-Belt Law's Fine Takes Effect Jan. 1

Beginning Jan. 1, 1987, North Carolina drivers and most front-seat passengers not wearing seat belts will face a \$25 penalty if they're ticketed for the infraction of the state's seat-belt law, according to state Highway Patrol officials.

The law, which was adopted by the 1985 General Assembly, requires that almost all drivers and front-seat passengers in vehicles originally equipped with seat belts buckle up. Exemptions were granted to those with medical conditions that prevent the use of seat belts, rural letter carriers and a few others.

Law enforcement agencies have issued only warning-tickets under the seat-belt law since it became effective.

The \$25 fine will be a civil penalty and no court costs, driver's license points or insurance surcharges will be assessed against violators.

The driver will be charged if the passenger not buckled up is under 16. If the passenger is 16 or older, the passenger will be charged.

Cover: Drawing By Raleigh Illustrator

Thom Ketrang of Dancing Bear Graphics in Raleigh prepared the color drawing for our cover along with the illustrations that accompany the feature on pages 8 and 9 regarding the origins of American Christmas customs.

Highway Patrol officials said no special enforcement efforts are planned as the new penalty takes effect.

"We'll enforce it (the law) vigorously, but there won't be any special campaign to enforce this statute over the other motor vehicle statutes," said Col. Jack Cardwell, commander of the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

EMC Official Gets Co-op Month Award

The administrative manager of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, has received a national honor for international cooperative development.

Barbara H. Deverick received a 1986 Cooperative Month Award presented by the National Planning

Committee for Cooperative Month. October is observed as Co-op Month across the country.

Mrs. Deverick, immediate past chairman of the National Cooperative Development Committee, has been involved in exporting the rural electrification pattern for more than 20 years.

She has worked in rural electrification development in Bolivia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Jamaica and Bangladesh.

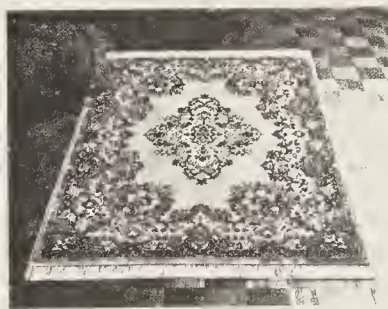
In addition, she has chaired the Overseas Cooperative Development Committee, is a member of the Central Committee of the International Cooperative Alliance, is a director of the Agricultural Cooperative Development International and is past chairman of the National Rural Electric Women's Task Force.



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Tracing The Origins Of America's Favorite Christmas Customs

Tradition: This is what Christmas is for most people.

We make our traditions, based on what we knew as children and what gives us greatest pleasure and happiness in our respective lifestyles. Of course there are as many traditions of Christmas as there are countries and as many variations as there are families and

people. All roads lead home at Christmas, and the child locked inside of us is eager for the journey.

Let's look at some holiday customs. Like our people, they are from many lands.

- In the South, all was fun and merriment with the luxurious customs and delicious foods of a true English Christmas. Fruit cake and Christmas cookies and candies—and all sorts of other good things—were on the menu.

The Yule log was lighted on Christmas Eve, workers sang Christmas spirituals, prayers were held until midnight, followed by dancing 'til dawn.

Christmas morning, everyone received their Christmas gifts and then went to church. Church was followed by a hunt and a feast with at least three courses. Often as many as 27 different kinds of meats and vegetables, cakes

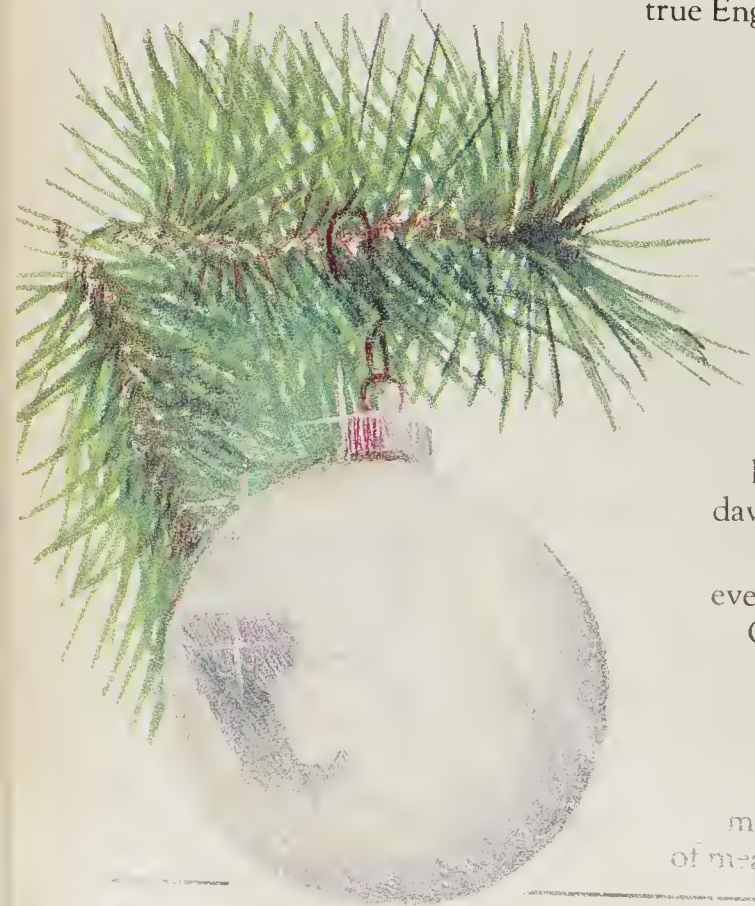
and pies and wines were served.

All of this ended in a blaze of glory with fireworks on Christmas night.

- The Southwest celebrated with Mexican-Catholic traditions. A wandering Joseph and Mary went from door to door. There was constant singing and finally they were admitted at midnight with much feasting and gaiety. The highlight was the breaking of the pinata—a pottery jar containing gifts and sweets. There was a pageant of shepherds, caroling and comedy—in which many people took part with much fun and laughter.

- California used wild cherry trees as a substitute for holly. Altadena has famous Christmas Tree Row, a mile-long avenue of lighted giant cedars brought from India years ago and visited each year by thousands of spectators.

- In the Middle West, everyone paid calls on Christmas Day. There was dancing to the music of the fiddles and later great balls were given. The most characteristic custom was the use of popcorn. Giant popcorn balls were made and sometimes the popcorn





was fashioned into funny or humorous figures.

• In the early 1800s, New Englanders looked upon Christmas celebrations as "popery." They did not observe it as a holiday until 1856.

Even then, customs were strict; there was little real fun and merriment. Their most charming custom was the carol singers who went from door to door singing such carols as "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and others,

Stories by Carol Bessent Hayman of Beaufort, whose writing has appeared in various books and publications, including Carolina Country. She and her husband are former residents of Cape Carteret, where they were members of Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation, Morehead City. One of her essays, "Legacy Of Love," appeared in Carolina Country last December.

an English custom we enjoy hearing and participating in each year.

• Customs from the Old World (Germany and Italy) linger with the Dutch of Pennsylvania. At midnight on Christmas Eve animals can talk, so legend says. Every house had its "putz" or manger scene carved of wood.

These were often handmade family heirlooms or figures purchased especially for Christmas and handed down with care from generation to generation. Neighbors made rounds, and everyone had coffee and Christmas cakes.

• Because New York was settled by the Dutch, St. Nick is the city's patron saint. At table, rich foods in true Dutch tradition were in abundance, sweetmeats and cakes or buns; and there were always toys and gifts for children.

Whether it's in the heart of New York City or on an island in the Carriibbean (see box), jolly ol' St. Nick—Santa Claus—remains the patron saint of all children.

Symbolic of his Christmas Eve visit is the feeling that even when the windows and doors are locked at night, love comes down the chimney still.

There is a saying, "Love will find a way." Santa Claus is the spirit of this love personified.

That spirit lingers and makes Christmas the loveliest time of the year.

Never A White Christmas

American holiday traditions are often intertwined with images of winter weather, but they have no place in the Christmas observances of Grand Cayman Island in the British West Indies.

Through an interview with a resident of the Carriibbean Island, I learned that the "commercial" aspect of the holiday there is quite different from that of the United States.

Christmas decorations and gifts appear in the stores and shops much later. Yet, children and adults begin saving their money in October. On Christmas Eve the shops stay open until midnight for their longest day of the year. Savings that have been hidden away are brought out to purchase gifts for friends and loved ones.

The traditions emphasize religious and family celebrations, including church programs of music and plays. Remembering the elderly and shut-ins with "serenading" reminds us of the tradition of caroling.

Most homes have Christmas trees but the Cassurina tree or the Norfolk pine are used because spruce and fir do not grow here. Several large branches of the Cassurina, tied together, produce a beautiful "Christmas tree," with feathery, green foliage.

Often, spruce or scotch pine trees are ordered from the U.S. by numbered request. When the tree with your number arrives, that's it. There is no chance for selection.

Traditional carols and music are sung and there are fireworks at midnight. Traditional plum pudding is a delightful specialty of the season.

An island custom is Boxing Day, which follows Christmas Day. All the wonderful Christmas foods—from roast beef to cookies—are boxed up in a picnic lunch for a holiday of fun in the park or on the beach.

Illustrations by Bobbie Holton,



Innocent Days: Looking Back At Christmastime Circa 1920

As I recall my childhood Christmases during the 1920s, I have to agree with that wise observer who once said, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

Even back then, Japanese imports were part and parcel of our church bazaars: hand-painted penny purses made of silk, bits of paper that turned into lovely flowers when they were put under water. It was pure magic to a child! But for some reason, I was always fascinated by those Chinese back-scratchers.

We had crafts, too: Brooms made of sage by an old man who lived alone and was only seen around at Christmas-time. Then there were the pillow slips embroidered by Hattie Greene, a widow in her late eighties, who had buried three husbands and was now in love with Benjamin Camp. He was a character in the

funny Andy Gump comic strip. And he'd stirred up Hattie's fury because he was "fixing to marry that Mary Gold!"

As for toys, I still say American know-how has yet to top those fat "Mama Dolls" that were rowed up on top of our church organ!

In those days, separation of church and state was unheard of in our town. Christmas trees and the singing of carols were in every schoolroom.

Miss Madeline, my soon-to-be-wed teacher, in her state of bliss, wanted her students to have the most beautiful tree of all. So she filled one whole corner of the second grade room with a dark green cedar.

This huge tree, later decorated with burning wax candles, fell over during the exchanging of gifts. Luckily, our pretty teacher's screams brought help in time to put out the flames.

Borrowing a bit of water from the bucket brigade, I found—to my disgust—that the red tin tea set, given to me by Tommy Swanson, leaked.

Tommy, the only child of an elderly couple, was given to wetting the floor when upset. And since I sat right in front of him and hated damp shoes, I pretended to be elated over my gift.

My only consolation was that the Yankee girl, who always gave pencil boxes, had not drawn my name.

On Christmas Eve everyone—except for a few "wild" boys who were out looking for a glimpse of a "flapper"—attended the annual pageant.

The drama, held in one of the churches, was always the same. Fathers or sons, self-conscious in new bathrobes, were Wise Men. A local belle was usually the Madonna. One year a girl who had been told she "looked just like Constance Bennett!" was chosen to play Mary.

She did, indeed, make a poised Holy Mother but almost lost her composure when bitten by a small angel known around town as "Terrible Toohey." However, Joseph managed to bring things under control. He was played by Neal Hartley, who grew up to become a movie and Broadway producer.

After the play, treats were handed out by Santa, who everyone easily recognized as the kindly George Kennedy. More than once he had to steady the big wobbly tree.

Clutching brown paper bags filled with oranges, horehound stick candy (Ugh!) and lots of raisins, the children and their parents walked homeward.

My family always took a short-cut that led through a frosty meadow and across a small bridge under which the branch would be heard gurgling in its icy banks.

The stars above us sparkled brightly.

Surely, we firmly believed, these same stars had lighted the skies over Bethlehem so long ago.

Story by Vivian Johnson Bollin of Sparta, who is a consumer-member of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir. A former newspaper reporter, she wrote the piece, "What's Become Of Armistice Day?," which appeared in Carolina Country in November, 1985.

Three Get Reynolds Honors

Three North Carolina citizens recently received the first Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards for their quiet but dedicated service to causes that often go unnoticed.

Each was honored with a \$5,000 personal award and an additional \$20,000 for the organizations and causes of their choice.

They were the Rev. Ronald E. Price of Winston-Salem, Lena S. Ritter of Holly Ridge and Henrietta Highsmith Williams of Mount Olive.

Price, a native of Michigan, was recognized for his efforts in the area of community change. The 74-year-old retired minister has developed a support program that ministers to the poor in the Forsyth County area.

He is the founder of Winston-Salem's Crisis Control Ministry, an organization that aids in the feeding, housing and clothing of the poor. Price will distribute his money among 10 organizations that provide services to the poor and to the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Williams was cited for her lifetime dedication to community service. An 89-year-old community missionary, she helped to develop programs that are now institutions in the Mount Olive area, including community centers, lunch and breakfast programs in the schools and a senior citizen's center.

In addition, she helped secure clothing for poor children and assisted with providing housing for black teachers who moved into her community.

Mrs. Williams will distribute her award money to a Mount Olive church, a community center and the senior citizen's center she helped found.

Mrs. Ritter, a 10th-generation fisherman, was recognized for her advocacy and efforts to forge more responsible coastal development policies by local and state officials.

The 51-year-old Mrs. Ritter became active in this area when an announcement was made of plans to develop a 10-story, 350-unit condominium complex on Onslow County's Permuda Island on Stump Sound. Several hundred residents of that area make their living fishing for oysters and clams.

Mrs. Ritter organized fishermen in the area to fight the development. A

lawsuit opposing the rezoning is now pending in court at the present time.

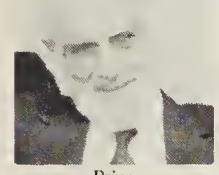
Mrs. Ritter plans to donate her money to the N.C. Coastal Federation and to two Onslow County volunteer fire departments.

The awards, which go solely to North Carolina residents, were established this year by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in memory of Nancy Susan Reynolds, one of the founders of the foundation. She was the daughter of R. J. Reynolds and Katharine Smith Reynolds. She died in 1985.

The foundation, which is marking its 50th anniversary this year, was formed in 1936 in memory of Mrs. Reynolds' brother.



Ritter



Price



Williams

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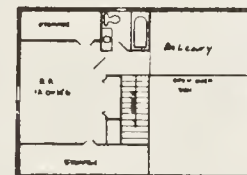
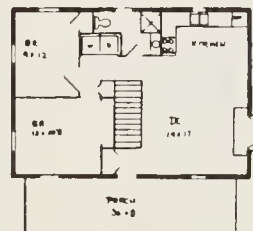
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What Is This Mysterious Thing Called Electricity?

Electricity is the most versatile form of energy. But it's also the most mysterious. We can't see it. We can't smell it. We can't hear it.

We appreciate these aspects of its convenience, but these aspects can also cause electricity to be dangerous to the unwary.

Here are answers to some of the questions people often ask about electricity:

Where does electricity come from?

Electricity is electrons in motion. It occurs in the form of lightning, can be made by electric eels and is in the small shock you sometimes get when you touch a doorknob.

Most of the electricity we use in our everyday lives is made in a power plant by spinning a magnet inside

coils of wire. This puts electrons in motion and creates a flow of electricity.

Does the human brain produce electricity?

Not only the brain but the entire body produces electricity through chemical reactions in the cells. The body is a highly complex electrical system with the brain functioning as the control and switching center. Most everything we see, hear, smell, taste and feel is the result of tiny electrical signals sent to the brain from various parts of the body.

What fuels can be used to make electricity?

Almost any fuel. Today, about 55 percent of U.S. electricity is produced by burning coal. But anything that can spin a turbine can be used to make electricity. We can burn oil or gas to boil water to make steam to turn the turbine. We can make heat from nuclear reaction to make steam. We can use the natural steam locked inside the earth. Or we can use the pressure of falling water to turn the turbine.

Why can't all electricity be made from waterfalls and dams?

There simply aren't enough large waterfalls or damsites in the country. So water power is used to produce only about 15 percent of U.S. electricity. This is unfortunate because it's one of the most efficient ways to make electricity.

Can I get hurt touching appliances during a thunder and lightning storm?

Not very likely, but it is possible. If lightning should strike very near your house, there is a chance of a powerful momentary surge of electricity in the wiring of your home. If this happens, there is a slight chance that even a well-insulated appliance could deliver a serious shock. It might even turn on your television.

You can help protect yourself by equipping your home with a home lightning protector device.

What's an electron?

It's a minute particle of an atom carrying a tiny electrical charge. To give you an idea of its size, it takes six trillion electrons to light a 100 Watt bulb for a single second.

Why doesn't a bird get electrocuted when it lands on an electric wire?

Because it lands on only one wire, takes the path of least resistance. It's simply easier for the electricity to continue along the metal wire than it is for it to enter the bird.

But if the bird landed on two wires with different voltages, the electricity would flow through the bird from the wire with the higher voltage to the wire with the lower voltage. Result: no more bird.

If you think you're having a heart attack, think out loud.

Chest discomfort that lasts longer than two minutes is nothing to fool around with. Play it safe and ask someone to get you to a hospital emergency room—immediately.



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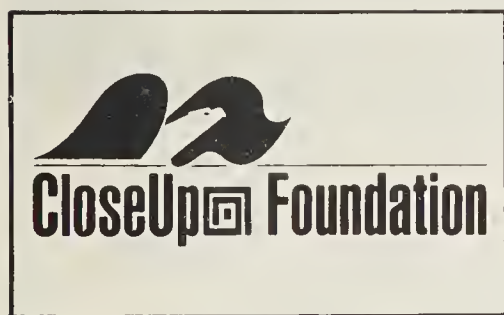
National Citizen Bee Competition Now Open To Tar Heel Students

The national Close Up Foundation Citizen Bee academic competition will be expanded to North Carolina high schools, according to an announcement by Dr. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of public instruction.

Schools throughout the state have been invited to participate in preliminary rounds, which will lead to a national competition in Washington next June.

The Bee will offer high school students an opportunity to compete on school, regional, state and national levels, testing their knowledge on social studies, based on a question book prepared by Close Up.

The Citizen Bee is endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.



On the national level, the Bee is supported, in part, by grants from RJR Nabisco, Inc., of Winston-Salem and Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.

In North Carolina, the Bee will be administered by the Department of Public Instruction, with the Division of Social Studies coordinating a local steering committee.

The News and Observer, Raleigh, is the first business in North Carolina to offer financial support for the competition.

"Just as a spelling bee brings suspense and competitive verve to a fundamental discipline, the Citizen Bee will bring excitement to the teaching and learning of history, politics, economics and current events," said John Ellington, director of the Division of Social Studies, who urged schools from North Carolina to become involved in the project.

Kathy Buckley, Close Up's North Carolina coordinator for the Bee, said that the idea for the Citizen Bee originated with the Kent County (Grand Rapids, Michigan) schools, which began the project in 1982.

Last fall, the Grand Rapids Citizens Bee Association agreed that Close Up would assume responsibility for expanding the competition to the national level.

The regional and state North Carolina finals will be held next spring.

The state winners will participate in the national competition in June. While in Washington, the state winners will compete for scholarships and also participate in a Close Up educational program.

The Close Up Foundation also conducts the nation's largest government studies program and annually brings more than 25,000 high school students, teachers and older Americans to Washington for a series of week-long seminars on national issues.

Since 1975, more than 5,400 participants from North Carolina have graduated from Close Up.

For additional information about the competition, write or call Jesse Vuncannon, Division of Social Studies, N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Education Building, Raleigh, NC 27603-1712. Phone: (919) 733-3829.

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This photo was taken July 2, 1985. This Triple-L-Climbing Tomato Plant is only 1/3 grown.



Tammy Brown, granddaughter of owner of Savage Farms Nurseries.

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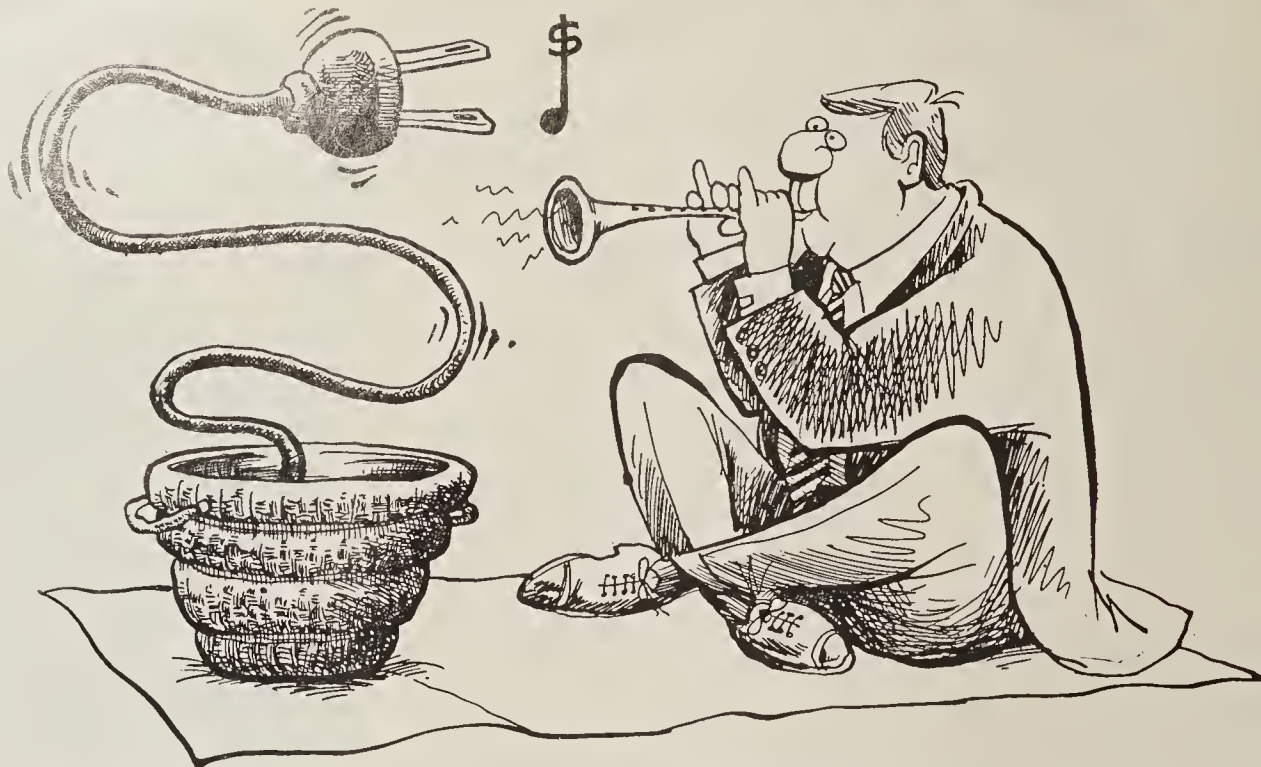
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Label Assures Shoppers That Products Are Top Quality And "Homegrown"

A new symbol is appearing in the food markets of North Carolina—the distinctive logotype, in the shape of a map of the state, signifying "Goodness Grows In North Carolina."

Most Tar Heel shoppers know that North Carolina produces some of the finest foodstuffs available anywhere—from pickling cucumbers to dairy and meat products. But just what does it mean to the consumer when a product bears this distinctive new symbol?

The most important meaning is that the product bearing the label is of top quality. If a firm produces several lines of merchandise, only the best is eligible for the "Goodness Grows" label. So the shopper can count on quality.

House Of Raeford Joins "Goodness Grows" Program

House of Raeford Farms, Inc., of Raeford, a major North Carolina turkey processor, is the latest food processor to sign up for the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" program. The firm's products, which are already well known to Tar Heel grocery shoppers, include fresh turkeys, chilled turkeys, frozen turkeys and turkey ham, pastrami, bologna and other delicatessen items.

The second characteristic—which is equally important—is that the merchandise is grown or produced in North Carolina. The technical requirement is that it contains a minimum of 51 percent raw product from North Carolina. Actually, most of the products in the marketing promotion are 100 percent Tar Heel.

Are all products of North Carolina in the program? No, although it offers a wide choice. To qualify for this new

program, food producers must make application to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Any firm or individual producing, processing or packaging North Carolina products is eligible. After the application is received, a committee reviews it to make sure the products meet the high standards. The committee includes marketing officials of the N.C. Department of Agriculture as well as specialists who are qualified on the products under consideration.

If approved, the firm and its products are in the program. There is no charge for inclusion.

The present list of products ranges from dairy products to pepper relish, from barbecue sauce (several labels), fresh blackberries and raspberries and includes processed pork, sweet potatoes, peanuts and peanut butter, corn meal and seafood, greenhouse tomatoes and hydroponic lettuce.

Not all of the products are edible, but most are. An Avery County firm markets premium Frazier fir Christmas trees and another company sells grass turf.

Smoked turkey and fresh North Carolina eggs, mountain apples, crabmeat fresh from the coast, and other seafood items are all on the list.

So when you buy products displaying the distinctive "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" logotype, you'll be boosting North Carolina products and you'll be getting the best that you can buy.

Anyone interested in more information about the program can write to: "Goodness Grows in North Carolina," Division of Marketing, N.C. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611.

More information may also be obtained by calling Mrs. Teresa Hamby at (919) 733-7912.

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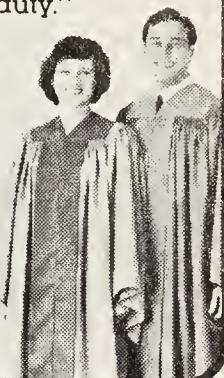
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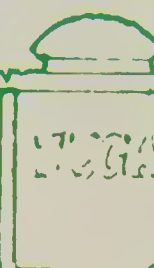
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 Pattern No. 412 includes directions to filet crochet doilies.
 Pattern No. 847 includes directions to sew and embroider colorful carriage cover.

Send \$3.25 for each pattern to: *Carolina Country*, Reader Mail, Dept. 8681, Box 58, Woodside, New York, 11377. Add 75¢ each for postage and handling. Be sure to use your full address, zip code and include pattern number and size.

COUNTRY KITCHEN



Want To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

We pay \$5 for published recipes and present each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards featuring a reprint of the published recipe.

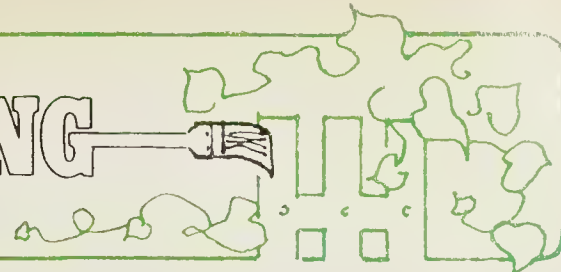
Easy Beef Burgundy

Submitted by Mrs. Don Charlson of Broadway

3 lbs. stew meat
 (cut into bite size pieces & trimmed of fat)
 2 cans golden mushroom soup
 1 pkg. onion soup mix
 12 ozs. sliced mushrooms
 ¾ cup red wine

Combine in large casserole and cover. Bake for three hours at 325°. Serve over egg noodles. Serves eight.

DO YOUR OWN THING



Dahlia Quilting

Anyone who enjoys quilting is sure to like the three-dimensional dahlia pattern. Easy to make using a simple block-and-stitch technique, this beautiful quilt can be made by hand or machine sewn. And with the help of this full-color 18-page guidebook, you don't need to be an expert quilter either!

Dahlia derives its name from the leafy flower pattern pictured here. Following the guidebook's step-by-step directions and full-size traceable patterns, individual blocks and borders are made using the cotton or polyester blend fabrics of your choice, then the blocks are pieced together on a cotton or cotton blend backing.

Handy hints are provided for selecting the proper colors and a complete materials list specifies the batting, thread, needles and other supplies needed to make each project.

Once you have learned to make the dahlia blocks (you can cut and machine stitch a block in about an hour after the templates are prepared), the guidebook will show you how to make a variety of quilting projects.

To obtain **The Three-Dimensional Dahlia**, #LP112, send \$7.25, includes postage and prompt handling.

Send your check to Lois Goodson, c/o Carolina Country, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409-2383.



U-BUILD PROJECTS



Make A Family Heirloom

This elegant child's rocking chair can become a treasured family heirloom for your family. Sturdily built from oak, it will surely last from child to child and generation to generation.

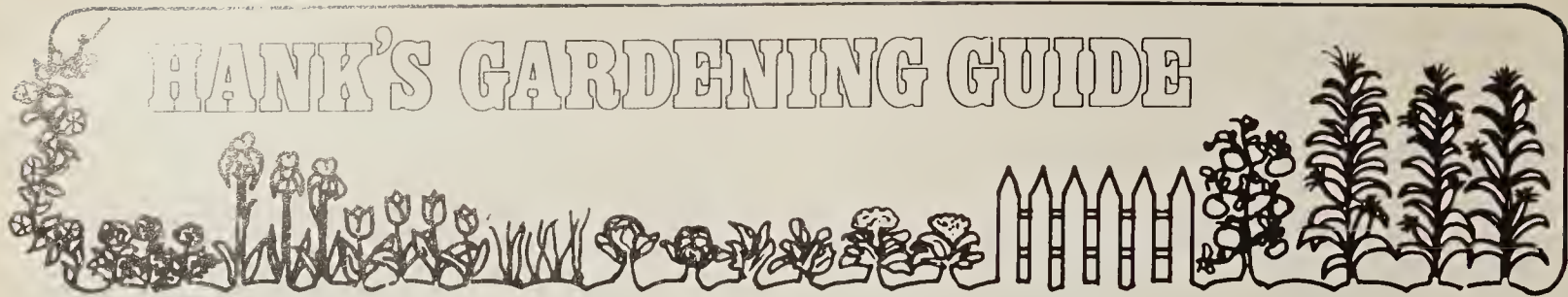
Measuring 25" high, with a 15" wide seat, and 21" deep (end-to-end of one rocker), this chair will comfortably accommodate any young person and a favorite doll or stuffed animal. A dozen step-by-step photos along with full-size traceable patterns for the chair sides, seat and rockers guide you in creating this heirloom.

To obtain **Traditional Child's Rocker**, Pattern #734, please send \$4.95. For five other children's furniture items, order packet #C19, **Kiddie Furniture**, including a froggy high-chair, robot dresser, step chair and more for only \$8.50. (#734 **Not** included). Both prices include postage and prompt handling.

Send check or money order to Steve Ellingson, c/o Carolina Country, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409-2383.



HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE



Among the outdoor activities to keep gardeners busy this month are planting bare-root and balled-and-burlapped trees and shrubs of all kinds. Setting out bare-root deciduous plants will help assure better growth next spring.

Pruning

Pruning should be with a "light hand" at this time. Limit pruning to mildly shaping and thinning to get trees and shrubs ready for winter ahead. Such pruning can include gathering greenery for holiday decorations.

Leave severe pruning until late winter, before plants will be putting forth new growth.

Live Christmas Trees

If you invested in a living Christmas tree, you'll want to get it planted outdoors soon after Christmas. The planting hole should be dug well ahead

of time. After getting the tree in the ground, apply mulch for extra protection. It is safest not to leave the live tree in the house over seven days.

Azaleas' Second Roots

Sometimes you will find an azalea plant which has developed a second set of roots, established just above the original set of roots. This indicates that the plant has been set too deeply or that the mulch has been heaped up into the crown of the plant. Poor drainage and deep planting will kill azalea roots by excluding air from the soil.

In an effort to survive, the azalea puts forth a second root system just below ground level. In time, original roots die and the plant is sustained by its secondary roots.

When this condition is encountered, the mass of dead roots should be sawed off just below the new set. Reset the plant at the level at which its new root system was growing.

Holly For Christmas



When cutting holly branches to use indoors, remember that some hollies produce berries on the previous year's wood. If pruned too heavily, next year's berry crop will be scant.

The holly varieties that need close attention when pruning are the American holly and all Chinese hollies, such as the popular Burfordi.

Water's A Must

If moisture has been scarce in your area, be sure to water lawns and evergreens thoroughly during winter months. It's easy to forget that plants need water when it's cold outside.

Plants with shallow roots are especially vulnerable to winter injury caused by lack of water. Such plants include azaleas, camellias, dogwoods and hydrangeas.

Muscadines

Prune your muscadine grapevines by mid-January. Cut back this year's growth to two or three buds to form short spurs. From these spurs, fruit-bearing shoots will arise next spring.

Bulbs

Complete the planting of spring-flowering bulbs this month. Remove those tulips you have been chilling in the vegetable crisper of the refrigerator. Get them into the ground before Christmas. Plant bulbs five to six inches deep. Space them approximately six inches apart.

Power Tools

If you have garden power tools that run on an oil and gas mixture, drain the fuel from the tank and run the engine until it uses up all the fuel in the carburetor.

Suggestions For Christmas Gift Giving

Garden items make welcome gifts for either the occasional or enthusiastic gardener. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Pot Plants.** These are gifts that may be enjoyed long after Christmas. Suggestions for flowering plants include azalea, chrysanthemum, African violet, cyclamen and poinsettia.

- **Flowers.** Every woman appreciates flowers, especially during the busy holiday season. Consider carnations or roses in either red or white. Or, a bouquet of mixed flowers.

- **Landscape Plants.** Trees and shrubs of many kinds are available at nurseries and garden supply stores. This is the ideal season to plant

- **Gardening Tools and Accessories.** From a riding mower to pruning shears, any gardener will appreciate a gift of this nature. And for the woman gardener, work gloves or knee pads might be useful.

- **Garden Accessories.** Flower pots, bird baths, statuary, window boxes, bird feeders and wind chimes are possibilities to accent the garden scene.



Check Lawn

Now's a good time for soil tests and to spread lime on the lawn if needed.

Clean-Up

Tidy up the garden now if it looks unkempt. Cut back chrysanthemums to eight-inch stubs after they bloom. Gather up all other dead plant materials and add to the compost pile. Any leaves from roses should be bagged or burned to prevent the spread of black spot.

Winter Rose Care



Most winter injury to roses comes from alternate freezing and thawing of the soil. A heavy mulch around the bushes will prevent soil from freezing too

deeply. The mulch also serves as an insulator to keep soil temperatures more nearly constant.

The mulch should be applied after the soil is partially frozen. Applying too early can cause a delayed damage. If mulch prevents soil from freezing, roses may sprout too early in the spring before the danger of frost has passed.

If you already maintain a summer mulch, simply add to it after the ground begins to freeze. A six-to-eight inch winter mulch usually is sufficient.

Ideal mulching materials are those that do not pack down tightly. Among these are clean straw, pine needles, wood chips, ground corncocks and dry peat moss. Remove the winter mulch when roses begin active growth in the spring.

Although a more time-consuming project than mulching, mounding soil eight-to-twelve inches over the bushes gives equally good protection. Soil should be brought in from another area such as the vegetable garden. Do not hoe up soil from between the rose bushes.

Remove the soil in the spring.

—Hank Smith

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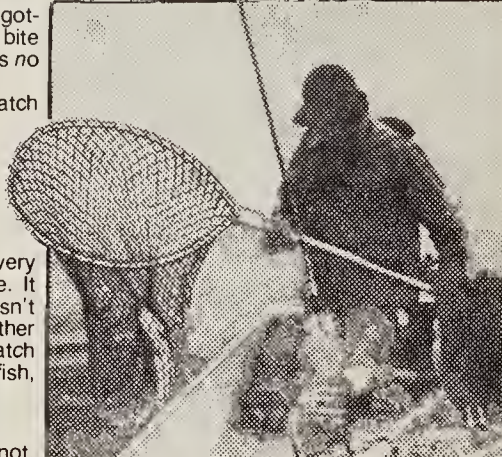
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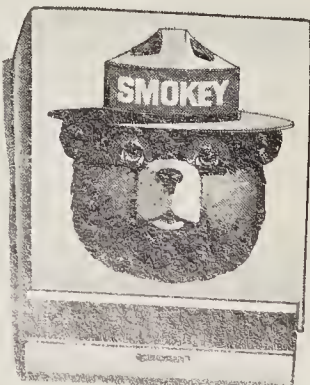
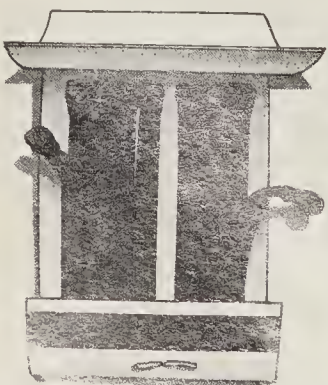
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Let's close the book on forest fires.



A young woman meant to call a record shop but dialed the wrong number and got a private home instead.

"Do you have 'Eyes of Blue' and 'Love That's Real'?" she asked.

"Well, no," answered the puzzled homeowner. "But I have got a wife and 11 children."

"Is that a record?" asked the woman.

"I don't think so," replied the man, "but it's as close as I want to get."

A prominent businessman was reading the morning paper in his den when an item caught his eye. He called out to his wife: "Say, Elizabeth, you won't believe what I see in this gossip column today. Absolutely ridiculous! It says you packed your bags and left. Elizabeth? Elizabeth?"

They call it 'take-home pay' because there is no other place you can afford to go with it.

One day a college professor saw printed on the window of a small restaurant, "Today's special: Lam Stew."

The proprietor standing in the doorway noticed the professor's smile of amusement and asked for an explanation. He accepted gratefully the professor's lesson in spelling.

The next time the professor passed the restaurant he looked for the window sign. This time, the special for the day was "Clamb Chowder."

A boss reportedly came out of his office and announced to his employees: "Listen up, everybody. Don't put any suggestions in the suggestion box today. The handle's broken and it won't flush."

"Load" Means "Sales Fee" In Load Mutual Funds

Mutual funds are popular investments, but some consumers are confused about load and no-load mutual funds.

What's the difference?

The load in a load mutual fund is a sales fee, usually 8.5 percent.

"This sales fee goes to the stock brokers and others who actively sell load funds. No-load funds don't have a sales force to push their funds. They rely on newspaper advertising and word-of-mouth to sell their funds," explains Dr. Michael Walden, extension consumer economist at North Carolina State University.

You don't make more from a load mutual fund, so why do people pay a sales commission when no-load funds are available with no sales fee?

The answer seems to be that it is easier to buy a load fund. All you have to do is call a stock broker, Dr. Walden says.

"Also, you can ask the broker to study the available funds and make recommendations. In contrast, you're on your own with no-load funds," the extension specialist says. "People who have limited time may decide that paying a sales fee to buy into a load fund is worth it."



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MISSING



**Ilene Rebecca
Scott**

Date Missing: 12/20/80

From: Carson,
California

Date of Birth: 12/19/74

White Female

Eyes: Blue

Height: 3'

Weight: 40

Hair: Brown



**Francillon
Pierre**

Date Missing: 8/2/86

From: North Las Vegas,
Nevada

Date of Birth: 10/1/82

Black Male

Eyes: Brown

Height: 3'6"

Weight: 35

Hair: Brown

If you can identify these children call The National
Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

1-800-843-5678

This message is brought to you by the National Child Watch Campaign™ a cooperative effort between the National Child Safety Council, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the American Gas Association.

National Child Safety Council is a non-profit organization supported solely by private contributions. The Council assists law enforcement agencies in the effort to combat the national tragedy of missing children in every state in the continental United States. If you would like to assist their efforts to help locate other missing children, please send your tax-deductible contribution to: MISSING CHILDREN SEARCH, National Child Safety Council™, P.O. Box 1368, Jackson, Michigan 49204.

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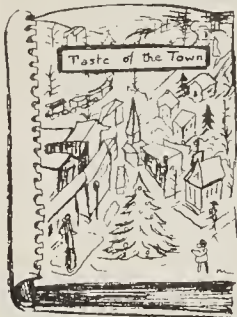
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Hillbilly Soup



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 (1 lb. 14 oz.) can pork & beans | 3 medium size onions, chopped |
| 1 (16 oz.) can whole kernel corn w/ liquid | 1 lb. can tomatoes |
| 1 lb. pkg. hot dogs, sliced ¼ inch thick | 1 cup tomato ketchup |
| | 2 Tbsp. prepared mustard |
| | salt & pepper to taste |
| | 2 cups water |

Combine all ingredients in large saucepan. Bring to boil. Simmer for 1 hour. Makes 10 single servings.

Shrimp Sandwich Spread

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 (7½ oz.) can shrimp, chopped | ¼ tsp. seasoning salt |
| 1 stick margarine | English muffins |
| 1 jar Kraft Old English cheese | ½ tsp. garlic salt (optional) |
| 2 Tbsp. mayonnaise | |

Mix all and spread on English muffin halves. Refrigerate until firm. Freeze, if desired. If frozen, thaw 10 minutes. Then bake. To serve, heat in 400° oven for five to ten minutes. Cut muffins in ½ inch pieces for appetizers.

Variation 1: for crab puffs—may substitute 6 to 8 oz. crabmeat for shrimp.

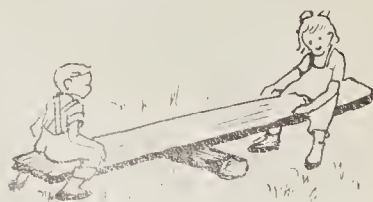
Variation 2: may substitute 1 cup country ham for shrimp.

The recipes reprinted here are from *Taste Of The Town—Second Serving*, a cookbook published by the Charity League of Lexington, which has been sponsoring service and cultural programs in that community since 1934.

The first *Taste Of The Town* was published by the organization in 1969 and proved to be so popular that its first printing quickly sold out.

The new book contains hundreds of recipes that are "treasures" handed down by generations of great cooks, share secrets from family or friends, or ... proudly claimed to be new discoveries," according to the book's preface. It features illustrations by Lexington artist Bobbie Holton. Mrs. Holton is a member of the Charity League. Another one of her illustrations from the cookbook appears on page 10.

Copies of the 440-page cookbook may be ordered for \$15.03 each, including postage and handling. Send orders to Charity League Cookbook, P.O. Box 722, Lexington, NC 27292.



How To Make A Pudding Box Raft



What you need:

- Empty pudding box
- Scissors
- Glue
- White or colored paper
- Small piece of clay
- Toothpick, drinking straw or twig

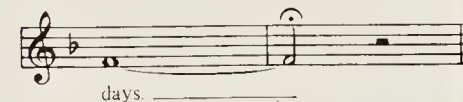
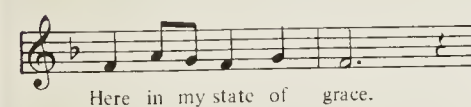
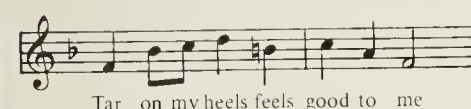
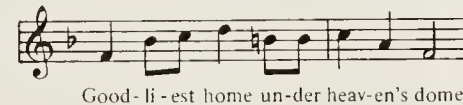
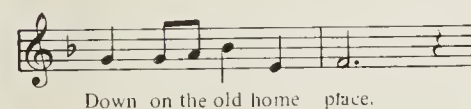
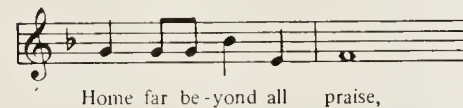
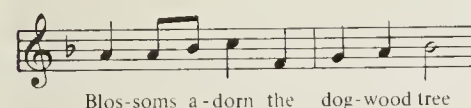
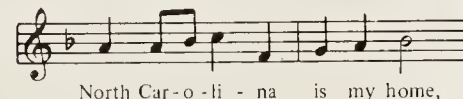
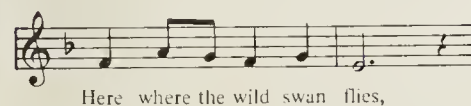
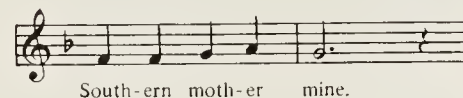
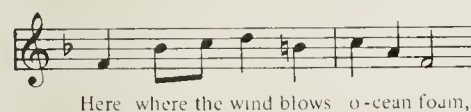
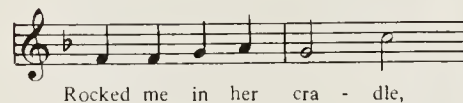
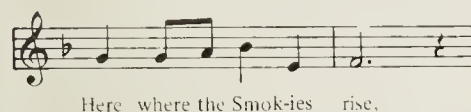
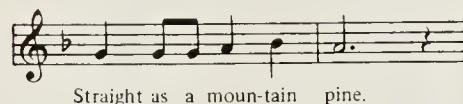
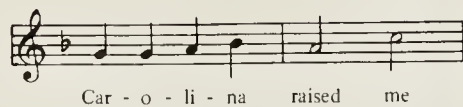
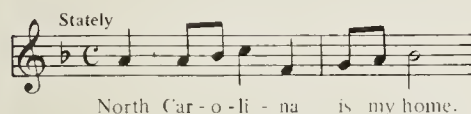
How to do it:

1. Cut out one of the larger sides of the pudding box (front or back) to make a boat.
2. Cut a small sail from the paper and push the toothpick through the sail to make a mast.
3. Attach the bottom of the toothpick to the inside of the raft by sticking it into a piece of clay on the deck of the raft.
4. Fill the sink or tub with water and test your raft!

—Kansas Country Living

NORTH CAROLINA IS MY HOME

words by Charles Kuralt
music by Loonis McGlohon



Reprinted from *North Carolina Is My Home* by Charles Kuralt and Loonis McGlohon with the permission of the publisher, East Woods Press, Charlotte, North Carolina. A review of the book *North Carolina Is My Home* appears on page 25.



One Snowy Christmas Eve

'Twas the night before Christmas and out on the ranch
The pond was frozen over and so was the branch
The snow was piled up belly-deep to a mule;
The kids were all home on vacation from school,
And happier young folks you never did see,
Just sprawled around a-watching TV.
Then suddenly some time around eight o'clock
There came a surprise that gave them a shock;
The power went off, the TV went dead!
When Grandpa came in from out in the shed
With an armload of wood, the house was all dark
"Just what I expected," they heard him remark.
"Them REA wires must be down from the snow.
Seems sorter like times on the ranch long ago."
"I'll hunt up some candles," said Mom. "With their light
And the fireplace, I reckon we'll make out all right."
The teenagers all seemed enveloped in gloom,
Then Grandpa came back from a trip to his room,
Uncased his old fiddle and started to play
That old Christmas song about bells on a sleigh.
Mom started to sing, and the first thing they knew
Both Pop and kids were all singing, too!
They sang Christmas carols, they sang "Holy Night,"
Their eyes all a-shining in the ruddy firelight.
They played some charades Mom recalled from youth.
And Pop read a passage from God's Book of Truth.
They stayed up till midnight, and would you believe
Those youngsters agreed 'twas a fine Christmas Eve!
Grandpa rose early, sometime before dawn,
And when the kids awakened, the current was on.
"The REA sure got the line repaired quick,"
Said Grandpa—and no one suspected his trick;
Last night, for the sake of some old-fashioned fun
He had pulled the main switch—the ol'son-of-a-gun!

Author unknown

Reprinted from the South Alabama Electric Cooperative edition of Alabama's statewide rural electric magazine, AREA News.



"Congratulations" On National Award!

Congratulations to the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives for winning the Gold Circle Award for the book *Living History!* I look forward to seeing the book. Thanks for offering the book in the November magazine.

Annie H. Motsinger
Rt. 10, Lexington

Copies of the 71-page oral history book are available for \$4.95 each, including postage and handling. Send orders to Living History, N.C. AEC, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

October Election Coverage Was "Unfair And Biased"

As a long time EMC customer, I want to object to your unfair and biased article in the October issue pertaining to the November elections.

In the first place, all the Democrat candidates for the Senate and House were placed in Slot I. Wouldn't it have been fairer if you had put the incumbents in Slot I? This would still have given the Democrats about a 3-to-1 edge.

Next, your "Washington Scene" article was obviously written by either the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times*, both of whom are as much anti-Reagan and anti-Republican as Gorbachev and Castro.

This article lists all the bad things attributed to Reagan but never mentions the many fine things that have occurred during the last six years. Let's look at the record.

Since 1980 the Soviet Union has not made one expansion move anywhere in the world. This is the first time this has happened in any six-year period since World War II. Why? Because Reagan, despite opposition from liberal Northern Democrats, has made the nation strong and the Communist only respect strength.

Why do you think Gorbachev wants

to return to the bargaining table. Because he knows we finally have a President who has built our military strength to a point where we can defend ourselves. Don't you really feel safer and prouder of your country now than you did when Carter was President? This is one reason Reagan is popular. Tell this to your "Washington Scene" writer.

Do you remember the 9 percent annual inflation rate in Carter's term? Didn't Reagan do all Americans a real service by reducing inflation to a 3 percent annual rate? This, incidentally, is the lowest rate for four consecutive years since World War II. Isn't this even worth mentioning?

Do you realize that there are more workers gainfully employed today than at any time in the history of the country? This is also true in North Carolina despite the closing down of some textile mills. The unemployment rate in North Carolina for October '86 was 5 percent compared with 7 percent nationwide. Isn't this worth reporting?

Magazine's Goal: "Fair And Objective" Coverage

Please be assured that we make a conscientious effort to see that the magazine's political coverage is as fair and objective as we can make it. But we also acknowledge that complete objectivity is a goal that is unattainable as long as the published material is the product of human endeavors.

In reference to the treatment of the election coverage you mentioned, we have given this a great deal of attention as we've sought a fair and reasonable approach to the presentation of candidate profiles.

In recent years, we have used a rotation system that calls for presenting the candidates by parties in A-B order in the primary coverage and B-A order in the general election coverage. Thus, material on the primary in our April issue had Republicans before Democrats and that order was reversed in the October special election section. The same approach was used for coverage of the 1984 elections except that we ran Democrats before Republicans in the primary section and the reverse order in the general election section. We expect to return to that sequence in 1988.

We have considered the suggestion of featuring incumbents first, but have not used that approach because of our concern that a shifting sequence would be confusing to the readers. We've also been concerned that this approach would stir complaints from non-incumbents about our giving the incumbents one more advantage over them.

In regard to your comments about the "Washington Scene" in the October issue, it was in no way prepared to intentionally omit the positive accomplishments of the Reagan administration. This particular piece did focus on the negative side of the ledger as part of an analysis of how that side might affect the outcome of the November elections.

The column encompasses material from various sources from time to time, including reports from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, staff-written material and contributions from free-lance writers. In selecting material for the column, we try to make it a balanced and objective overview of issues and developments that are of particular interest to our rural North Carolina audience.

In addition, further balance is offered through this letters-to-the-editor column, which is open to readers who wish to challenge our reports and/or present differing viewpoints.

Editor

I could go on and on reciting the many positive things that have happened under Reagan—lower interest rates, lower tax rates, less government in our daily lives, stock market at an all time high, etc.

I believe you owe your readers an apology for this slanted article. I'm sure Sanford and all the Democrats elected to Congress hold your publication in high esteem as this free advertising no doubt was a factor in some of the close races.

When the 1988 Presidential election comes around or any future elections, your publication should ask the heads of each party to present their candidates to your readers with equal space given to each candidate. Wouldn't this be fairer than getting a liberal Democrat newsman from Washington to tell your readers all the bad things and omitting all the good things that have occurred under Reagan's administration?

C. Edwin Lovell
Blowing Rock

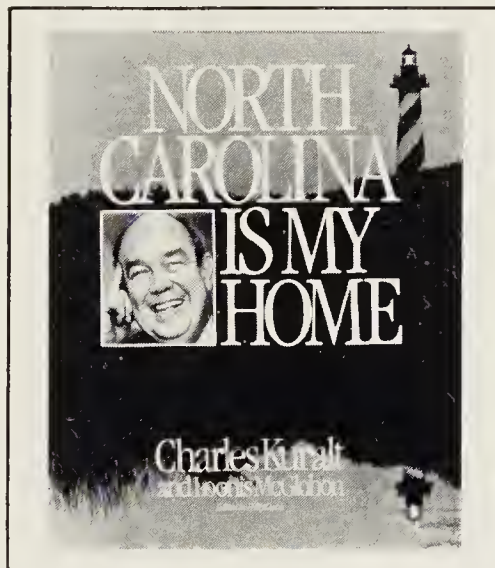


North Carolina Is My Home by Charles Kuralt and Loonis McGlohon. Edited by Patty Davis, The East Woods Press, 104 pages. \$28.00

If you take pride in calling North Carolina home, you are going to love *North Carolina Is My Home*, by Charles Kuralt and Loonis McGlohon.

In 1985, these two famous native sons pooled their talents and made a recording of *North Carolina Is My Home*, in honor of North Carolina's 400th birthday. This book is an extension of that recording, giving us Kuralt's words, McGlohon's music—and adding some of the most spectacular photographs of our land and our people that you will ever see.

If you are familiar with Kuralt's work on CBS's "On The Road," you know how he can make the most ordinary people and places extraordinary with his keen eye for detail, and his ability to use exactly the right words to touch our hearts. He displays all of that talent in abundance when he is honoring his home state.



Our land, that precious Tar Heel soil, is explored, from the seashore to the mountains, with all the backroads and byways in between.

Our people, the ones who have brought fame and honor to our state, and the ordinary folks, are all here.

You'll also find our history, our religion, music and food.

You'll laugh when you read "The Barbecue Blues," and most likely cry while reading "The Farmer," a tribute to Kuralt's grandfather in Onslow County.

With 75 color photos, 16 duotones and Kuralt's words that touch the soul, *North Carolina Is My Home* is a treasure, a book to keep and enjoy over and over.

This book may be purchased for \$28 from your bookseller or ordered directly from the publisher, East Woods Press, 429 East Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C. 28203 (704) 334-0897. For orders only, customers may call toll-free: In North Carolina: (800) 532-0476. Outside North Carolina: (800) 438-1242. To order by phone, you must be either a retail or a credit card customer.

Words and music for the song *North Carolina Is My Home* appear on page 23.

© 1986 Mary Davenport



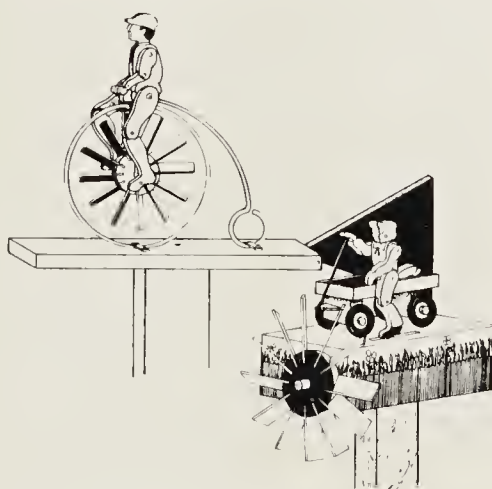
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Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted.

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WASHINGTON SCENE

Shift Of Power In Senate May Stir Confrontations With The Administration

As the next Congress, which will be officially known for the next two years as the One Hundredth Congress, prepares to convene in Washington in January, some members may have to wear name tags the first week or so.

The unexpected gain of eight seats by the Democrats, which gives them a clear 55-to-45 margin in the Senate, will bring a number of new faces to the Senate floor when that body convenes next month.

Most observers believe the upset came about because there was no great national issue influencing the election and that on the local issues the Republicans had the worst of it. This seemed to be particularly true in the farm states, where times have been bad and in states with a large textile industry concentration.

President Reagan campaigned harder for Republican Senate candidates than any President in history and although his popularity remained high in election day exit polls, he couldn't persuade the voters.

The question facing the nation now becomes: What does this shift in power in the Senate, coupled with the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, mean for the last two years of the Reagan administration?

Reagan says he will seek to coop-

erate with the new Congress but says his agenda hasn't changed.

Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the Democratic leader in the Senate, says his members will seek cooperation, not confrontation—but confrontation seems almost a certainty.

Example: Two days after the election, Reagan announced that he was vetoing a Clean Water Act, which the Congress had passed overwhelmingly.

As soon as the president announced his veto, Sen. Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) announced that he will introduce a similar bill on the day the Senate convenes in January. That's confrontation.

Before any legislation can be passed, however, the business of replacing the entire staff of Senate employees will have to take place.

Under a long-established formula that often escapes public notice, the Senate has established a ratio that gives the majority party two-thirds of the professional staff of a committee or subcommittee. The remaining one-third goes to the minority party and works under the direction of the ranking minority senator.

A typical committee might have 12 "majority" employees and only six for the minority. Numbers of staff members vary by committee.

With the shift of power Democrats who will chair Senate committees or subcommittees are planning to enlarge their staffs, while many employees of Republicans are now seriously job-hunting.

Since a lot of work is done by staff members, the change will give Democrats an advantage they haven't enjoyed in six years—a change that could have more bearing on legislation enacted than most Americans realize.

The Senate must also elect its own leaders, but Byrd is assured of the majority leader's seat. He formerly served as majority leader and later as minority leader when the GOP was in the majority. Alan Cranston, the California Democrat who was just re-elected, will remain the Democratic whip.

When the work of organization is completed, the legislative process can begin.

Senate sources say there will be many matters that will find the Democratic Senate advocating actions that would conflict with Reagan policies—and some of these can be listed in advance:

Trade—One of the first pieces of legislation which will be introduced will be a trade bill, one calling for restricting some imports that have been hurting U.S. industries. Textiles, shoes and possibly even automobiles will be included. The effort will no doubt be resisted by Reagan, who has never retreated from his belief in a "free trade" policy, in which there are no controls and competition is supposed to hold prices down. He has vetoed one trade bill and is expected to oppose any bill setting import limits.

Defense—The administration, which has had almost a free hand in increasing defense spending, will find things different in the new Congress. Democrats are expected to follow Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, who will be chairman of the Military Affairs Committee. Nunn, who is considered a military expert, has been critical of Reagan policy and advocated more attention to ground strength, rather than the glamor weapons that the Reagan people have seemed to prefer. Defense spending will remain high but will almost certainly be more

controlled than during the past six years.

The Strategic Defense Initiative or "Star Wars" program will be continued but will be limited to research, as many senators are not convinced that it is viable.

Environment—Already, as noted earlier, the differences have begun to surface. Reagan's veto of the Clean Water Act, which he called "too expensive," has drawn protests and prompted Sen. Moynihan to say he'll introduce similar legislation when the new Congress meets.

Social Issues—Here, Senate sources say, is one area where confrontation between the administration and Congress seems almost certain. The new Senate almost certainly will go along with the Democratic House in insisting on support for programs to help the disadvantaged and will

resist any attempts to make further cuts. Certainly, such programs as Aid to Dependent Children, Head Start and other efforts to help the poor will be less threatened.

These are some of the specific areas where differences will arise, but the differences will go even further. At issue, some thoughtful observers believe, will be two widely divergent beliefs in what the role of the federal government should be.

Reagan believes—and has said so—that government does too many things that should be left to private industry.

He says the government has no business being involved in making and distributing electricity and he has led his administration to try to phase out the Rural Electrification Administration and to sell some of the operations of the federal hydro-power projects in the West.

This new Congress will be more apt to resist the efforts to "privatize" government programs than the present Republican Senate.

Another area in which Reagan stands to lose an advantage he has enjoyed is in the appointment of federal judges who support his philosophy. It has been his expressed desire to leave behind him a federal judiciary that shares his beliefs and which will influence the way government relates to people well into the next century.

Reagan has been very successful in getting the judges he wanted confirmed by the Republican Senate. With Sen. Strom Thurmond, the conservative South Carolinian chairman of the Judiciary Committee and with a majority on the committee and in the Senate, Republicans have a clear sailing on appointments.

But that is going to change in January when Democrat Joe Biden of Delaware becomes committee chairman, with a Democratic majority. This will lead to more confrontation.

A similar situation exists in the Foreign Relations Committee, where Republican Richard Lugar of Indiana is to be replaced as chairman by Rhode Island's Claiborne Pell. The latter is an outspoken critic of one of Reagan's principal objectives—aid to the forces trying to overthrow the government in Nicaragua.

There has been considerable opposition to sending arms to the anti-government forces, but during the recent session Reagan succeeded in getting \$100 million for them.

Finally, the main advantage that Democrats gain is that they will control the Senate agenda. The majority leader will have the final say as to what bills are called up for debate each day. Democrat committee chairmen will decide when committees are to meet, or when they are not to meet. This gives the majority party a tremendous advantage.

But the experts point out that the Democrats will have to be careful how they use this new power. The presidential elections are just two years away and their party will be judged on its stewardship between now and 1988.

The South "Rises Again" In Senate Influence

As Senator James Sasser (D-TN) puts it, "The South has risen again."

And when the Congress returns next month to start its 100th session, Southern Democrats will have considerably more influence than they have had for several years.

No less than eight Southern senators will become chairmen of key committees, positions that will give them far more power than they had when they left Washington in October.

In the last Congress only two Southern Senators held committee chairmanships with the upper chamber under Republican control: South Carolina's Sen. Strom Thurmond in the Judiciary Committee and Sen. Jesse Helms in the Agricultural Committee. They will be succeeded by Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, respectively.

But Southern Democrats will control these committees:

Appropriations—John Stennis of Mississippi, who is regarded as more conservative than Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, the present chairman.

Armed Services—Sam Nunn of Georgia, a frequent critic of the Pentagon but regarded as the most knowledgeable member on defense matters, will succeed retiring Barry Goldwater of Arizona.

Finance—Lloyd Bentsen of Texas will take over from Bob Packwood of Oregon, principal author of the Tax Reform Act this year. Bentsen has indicated he may want to make some changes in that legislation.

Budget—Lawton Chiles of Florida will succeed Pete Domenici of New Mexico. Chiles is a moderate who has worked closely with Domenici. Both have battled to keep down deficits with little success.

Commerce—Ernest (Fritz) Hollings of South Carolina replaces John Danforth of Missouri. Both are moderates and both have been critical of Reagan's trade policies. Hollings has been a vocal opponent of textile policies.

Other Southern senators who will chair committees are Sen. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, Energy; Wendell Ford of Kentucky, Rules and Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, Small Business.

Tar Heels Take Home 14 National 4-H Awards

Fourteen North Carolina 4-H members, including five from Wake County, won 16 national honors during the recent National Junior Horticultural Association's 52nd annual convention in Raleigh.

Grand national award winners and their programs were Daniel Norden of Raleigh and Deedy Martinet of Rt. 5, Zebulon, Young America gardening project; Jason Harrell of Rt. 1, Hertford, marketing demonstration; Jo Ellen Eudy of Rt. 4, Albemarle,

use demonstration and Steve Dillon of Winston-Salem, commercial horticulture project.

Regina Linville of Winston-Salem and David Norden of Raleigh each won two national awards. Linville won in the Young America gardening and home beautification projects. Norden won in the Young America plant propagation and gardening projects.

Other national award winners and their programs were Elizabeth Betts of Grifton, landscaping demonstration; Stacy Bunch of Rt. 2, Rocky Mount, artistic arrangement demonstration; Susan Clark of Rt. 5, Morganton, use demonstration; Charles Hudson of Rt. 2, Moyock, production demonstration.

Also, Paul Lanier of Rt. 1, New Hill; Emily Petty of Durham and Joan Blazich of Raleigh, all in the Young America gardening project.

A Wake County team won first

place in the open team division of the horticulture judging, information and identification contest for ages 15 to 18. Team members were Jocelyn Carter of Raleigh; Henry Young III of Rt. 3, Wake Forest and Cory Parkhurst of Rt. 2, Apex. Carter won second-place individual honors; Young placed fourth and Parkhurst won sixth.

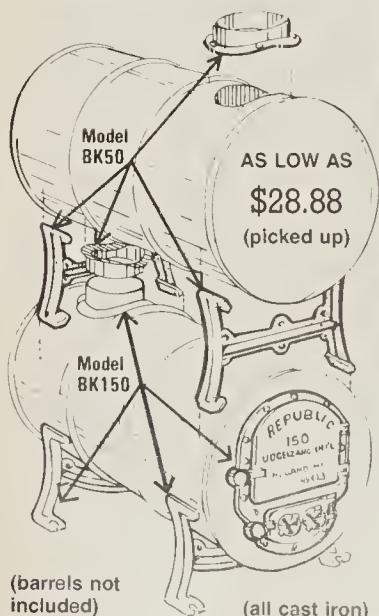
John Young of Rt. 3, Wake Forest, won second place in the honors division for ages 15 to 22.

Winning fifth place in the 4-H team division of the horticulture contest for ages 15 to 18 were Shellie Morey, Ruth McDaniel and Tela Thompson of Raleigh.

Headquartered in Michigan, the National Junior Horticultural Association is designed to help young people obtain a basic understanding and to develop skills in horticulture. Membership is open to young persons ages 8 to 22.

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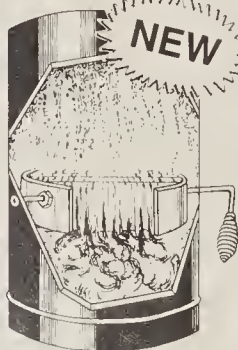
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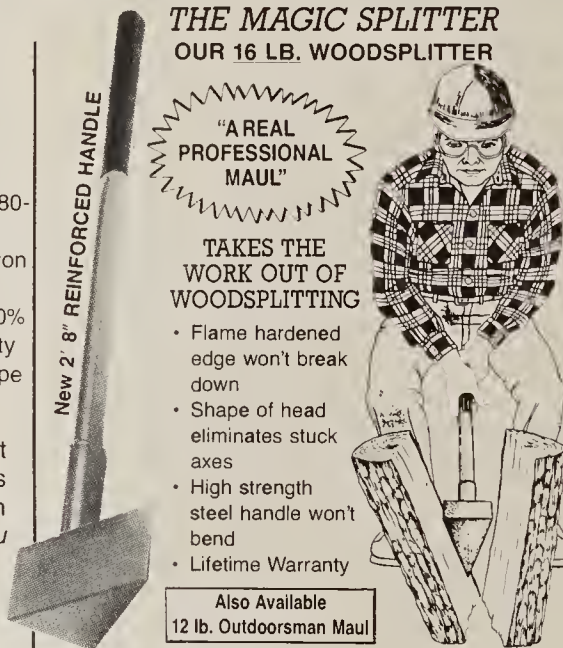
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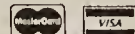
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Allows Debt Reorganization

Bankruptcy Section Could Help Farmers

A new section of the federal bankruptcy code that became effective in November could help 15,000 to 18,000 North Carolina family farms with serious financial problems, according to North Carolina State University agricultural extension economist Robert Collender.

"Chapter 12 (the new section) was written especially for family farms," said Collender. "It offers the farmer a chance to lower his debt, reorganize his loan payments and stay on the farm."

But Collender isn't sure many farmers will take advantage of the new section.

"There seems to be a natural aversion (among farmers) to the bankruptcy alternative," Collender said, "and, certainly, filing for bankruptcy should not be done lightly. While filing for bankruptcy is a legitimate business decision, it can be very expensive and stressful for the entire farm family."

Chapter 12 was written by Chief Judge Thomas Moore and Judge A. Thomas Small of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of North Carolina.

They explained it in Raleigh recently for attorneys attending a conference on advising farmers in financial distress. The conference was arranged by the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with other agencies.

Farmers who borrowed when land values were high but who are now caught with more debt than assets may reduce the amount of farm debt under the new provisions.

A farmer who borrowed \$1 million against high valued land that now has a value of \$600,000, for example, could have his loan reduced to \$600,000.

In addition, he could refinance at current interest rates, which are likely to be much lower than when the original debt was incurred.

Rather than being forced by creditors

to sell land, as can happen when a farmer files under other chapters of the bankruptcy code, the farmer in Chapter 12 bankruptcy cannot be forced into liquidation.

Chapter 12 also redefines what constitutes "adequate protection of lenders' interests." Previously, farmers faced an immediate bill for "lost opportunity costs" when they filed under existing sections of the bankruptcy code.

"Lost opportunity costs" is the amount of interest the lender could receive if he had his money invested elsewhere.

"Under Chapter 12, lender interests are considered protected if assets are being properly maintained and, in some cases, the lender is receiving fair market rent for their use—usually much less than required under other bankruptcy options," Collender said.

Only family-operated farms with total debts under \$1.5 million are eligible to file for Chapter 12. Also, 80 percent or more of the total debt must be from the actual farming oper-

ation and 50 percent of the previous year's income must have come from farming.


NCSU economist Collender said Chapter 12 won't be a solution for everyone, but it does offer a better alternative than farmers have had under existing chapters of bankruptcy law.

Chapter 12 reorganization will leave the farmer 100 percent in debt. "Farmers who file under Chapter 12 won't be able to make a go of it for very long unless they're very good farm managers," Collender said.

They must have enough income to pay off the operating expenses as well as any debt remaining after reorganization. This often means having to cut the family's standard of living to the absolute minimum.

"And they must be lucky with such factors as weather and government policies," he said.

Farmers who have already filed for bankruptcy under another chapter of the law will not be allowed to switch to Chapter 12.



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Rediscovered Inspiration For The Yuletide Season

Becky Rivers gave our office a call recently from her home in Mountain City, TN, where she's been living since she retired from the staff of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Washington two years ago.

Earlier in her career, she worked for several years with the North Carolina co-ops' statewide organization and wrote for *Carolina Country* when it was known as *The Carolina Farmer*.

She called because she was preparing a holiday season speech and wanted to use a poem that had appeared in one of her magazine columns back in the late 1950s. But she couldn't find a copy.

After a bit of research, we discovered it in the December, 1958, issue. We thought it was worth reprinting, along with the comments Becky had used to introduce it in her column, "Over The Lines."

The Song Of The Angels

Last Christmas afternoon, sitting in the middle of the tinsel debris of the occasion, I finally had time to read the Christmas cards which had been arriving since the middle of the month. One of them contained a poem which left me conscious stricken: It reminded me that in the bustle of pre-Christmas festivities and the hubub of holiday shopping, I had missed the point of Christmas—I had missed the song of the angels.

That this won't happen again, I'm reading the poem early this year—and I'm sharing it with you.

Merry Christmas, dear friends, and may you not miss the songs of the angels!

Leisure

*I shall attend to my little errands of love
Early this year
So that the brief days before Christmas
May be unhampered and clear
Of the fever of hurry. The breathless
Rushing that I have known in the past
Shall not possess me. I shall be calm in
My soul and ready at last
For Christmas: "The Mass of Christ." I
Shall kneel and call out His name;
I shall take time to watch the beautiful
Light of a candle's flame,
And I shall have leisure—I shall go out
Alone from my roof and my door;
I shall not miss the silver silence of the
Stars as I have before;
And, oh, perhaps—if I stand there very
Still, and very long—
I shall hear what the clamor of living
Has kept from me: The Angels' Song!*

—Grace Crowell

We Wish You Many Cakes

Since we're examining American Christmas traditions elsewhere in this issue, it seems quite appropriate to mention some of the folklore that has become part of North Carolina's Yuletide tradition.

Here's how several of them were described in a holiday message that I clipped from *The Raleigh Times* last year:

"Christmas entertaining is fine, according to old Currituck County belief, especially if it includes a stranger in the house on Christmas Eve, a sign of much happiness for the coming year.

"But woe if there are 13 sitting down to Christmas dinner; the first one to arise will be first to die. Laugh if you like, but people still are hesitant to sit at a dinner table of 13 any time of the year, never mind Christmas.

"If the fire smolders on Christmas, it betokens a year of adversity, while a bright Yule fire foretells prosperity.

"From Stanly and Cleveland Counties comes this warning: If you

take out ashes between Christmas and Old Christmas (Jan. 6), one of the family will be taken out before the year passes.

"From Caldwell County comes the alarming prediction that a seventh daughter born on Christmas Day will possess mysterious (witchlike) powers.

"In a tradition from Durham, wearing new shoes on Christmas Day is considered unlucky—but each piece of Christmas cake baked by a different person that one eats on Christmas guarantees a month of good luck.

"May your cakes be many."

One-Vote Margins: Three Out Of Five

It's time to set the record straight: Our October column was in error when we listed those dramatic turning points in history which supposedly came about as a result of one-vote margins.

Such a margin was in no way involved in two of them, according to a couple of Meredith College history professors.

The entire item had appeared in another publication and I simply assumed that it was based on historical facts. But when we kept getting questions about how one vote in 1776 had given America the English language rather than German, I began to wonder just what kind of balloting might have been involved.

So we called Dr. Frank Grubbs and his wife, Dr. Carolyn Grubbs, at Meredith to verify the incidents.

They said one vote did indeed save President Andrew Johnson from impeachment in 1886; one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic in 1875 and one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party in 1923.

However, English had been established as America's language long before 1776. And one vote did not bring Texas into the Union in 1845. Annexation of Texas was approved by Congress in July of that year, but not by a single vote.

—Owen Bishop

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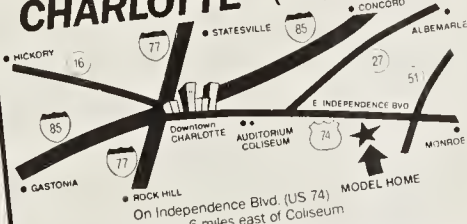


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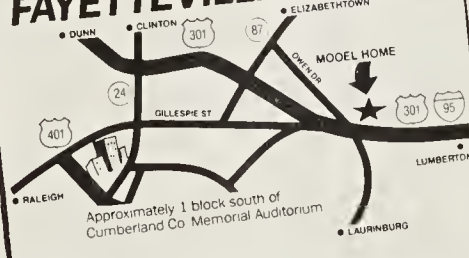
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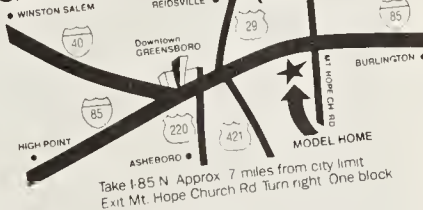
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